DC

MISTER MIRACLE

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MISTER MIRACLE™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BY
MOENCH
PHILLIPS
& MARCOS

IN THIS CORNER... BIG BARDA™ AND FRIENDS!

PHILLIPS
DVORAK
'90

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK:

SO WHAT *IS* THIS? SOME KINDA *PUBLICITY STUNT?*

BEATS ME -- SOME JOKER IN A *COSTUME* JUST UP AND *LOCKED* HIMSELF IN THAT *SAFE!*

MUST BE ON *DRUGS.*

NAH... I THINK HE'S TRYIN' TO PULL A *HOUDINI.*

A HOU*WHO*NI?

HOUDINI! DON'T YOU KIDS TODAY KNOW *ANYTHING?*

HE WAS THE *GREATEST* ESCAPE ARTIST WHO EVER *LIVED!*

AND THIS *KID'S* THE *WORST!*

GIVE HIM A *CHANCE.*

I'LL SAY THIS FOR OUR SCOTT -- HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO WORK A CROWD!

Y'KNOW, AS MUCH AS HE TALKED ABOUT WANTING TO LEAD A QUIET LIFE OUT IN *BAILEY* -- THE BOY JUST CAN'T STAY OUT OF THE *LIMELIGHT...*

HE'S AN *EXCITEAHOLIC.*

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO *STAY* IN THERE, BEETLE?

ICE, YOU KNOW SCOTT -- HE'LL KEEP 'EM ALL IN SUSPENSE TILL THE *LAST SECOND* --

-- THEN *BAM!* HE'LL COME BLASTING *OUTTA* THAT THING!

HEY, LOOK -- SOMETHING'S HAPPENING RIGHT *NOW...*

HERE COMES THE GREAT --

RRUMBLE

--ESCAPE?

FFFFT

THAT'S *IT?*

BWAH-HA-HA!!!
HOW CAN YOU LAUGH?
REAL EASY, ICE... HERE-- I'LL DO IT AGAIN:
BWAH-HA-HA!!!
BUT SCOTT--!
--IS GONNA BE JUST FINE, 'CAUSE--
--HERE COMES BLUE BEETLE TO THE RESCUE!
LOOK! A BIG COCK-ROACH!
WE'LL HAUL POOR SCOTTSO OUTTA HERE-- AN' THEN CUT HIM LOOSE BACK AT THE EMBASSY.
Y'KNOW, SPARE HIM THE PUBLIC HUMILIA-TION!
BWAH-HA-HA!!
DRINK SPIT!
SCOTT FREE IS NOT AMUSED.
OH...NO!!!
THEY THINK I'M IN THE SAFE!!! WORSE, THEY THINK THEY HAVE TO SAVE ME!
SHILO'S NEW ACQUAINTANCE FIONA LEEWAY, HOWEVER, IS AMUSED-- SORT OF.
HOW ABOUT THAT?
SHILO PROMISES A SIMPLE SAFE ESCAPE-- AND THEN BRINGS IN ONLY AN AERIAL SHOW.
WOTTA GUY-- IF ONLY HE'D PASSED OUT BINOCULARS.
TO THE EMBASSY, OBERON! IT'S THE ONLY PLACE THEY CAN BE TAKING ME... UH... HIM!
HUH?
THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT SHILO BEING THE NEW MISTER MIRACLE YET-- THEY THINK IT'S ME IN THAT SAFE!
TAXI!!!
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE EMBASSY-- AND STEP ON IT!
WHY DON'CHA JUST LET 'EM KEEP HIM?
OBERON.
2

MEANWHILE, BACK AT SCOTT FREE'S LOFT, HIS WIFE, BARDA, TALKS ABOUT HER FUTURE...

TONIGHT--? WELL...YES, OF COURSE I CAN BE READY.

A WARRIOR IS ALWAYS PREPARED FOR COMBAT...

ALBANIAN NOODLE FACTORY

GOOD FOOD FOR YOUR NOODLE

BLUB

IN FACT, THE WARRIOR CODE DEMANDS--

GREAT, BABE! NOW, WE WANNA DEBUT YA WITH A NICE WIN...

I KICKED LOBO'S BUT

WELL, OF COURSE I'LL WIN, MR. PETE! I'VE NEVER LOST A--

BUT JIST GO EASY ON THE PULSATIN' PYTHONA, HUH? SHE'S STILL NURSIN' A SPRAINED SACROILIAC FROM A FLYING DROP-KICK DAT WENT AWRY.

BUT I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PETE...

THIS IS COMBAT... SHE'S A WARRIOR... I'M A WARR-

YEAH, SURE, BABE, YOU'RE BOTH WARRIORS.

I JIST WANT YAS BOTH TO LIVE TO COMBAT ANUDDER DAY, RIGHT?

OH, I SEE-- YOU'RE JUST REMINDING ME THIS IS NOT MORTAL COMBAT.

WELL, I KNEW THAT, PETE, AND DON'T WORRY-- I WOULDN'T KILL HER ANYWAY.

I KICKED

GOOD, GOOD. MAINTAIN DAT KINDA ATTITUDE, BABE, AN' YOU'LL GO FAR IN DIS BIZ. SEE YA TONIGHT.

MY DEBUT MATCH-- AND SCOTT'S NOT EVEN HERE.

PERHAPS HE'S TRAINING SHILO NORMAN.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, HIGHFATHER...

I KICKED LOBO'S BUT

ACCROSS THE GALAXY

BUT YOU'LL COME TO WATCH ME, WON'T YOU?

I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLDS, BARDA.

AND SO--

WELCOME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO OUR FIRST BOUT OF THIS EVENING'S MEGAMAT MANIA EVENT!

OLD FAVORITE, THE PULSATING PYTHONA, VERSUS THE DEBUT PERFORMANCE OF A BRAND-NEW BAD AND BEAUTIFUL BABE OF WRESTLING--

--AND LET'S HEAR IT FOR... BIIIIIIG BARRRRRDA!!

HSSSSSS!

BOOOOO!

SQUEEZE HER, PYTHONA!

I SEE I MUST EARN MY WAY INTO THEIR HEARTS... WITH STRENGTH, SPEED, AND COURAGE.

BAD 'N BEAUTIFUL: THE BABES OF BODYSLAM!

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DINGG

ALL RIGHT, SISTER, HERE I COME.

JUST REMEMBER TO--

"AND THE MATCH BEGINS! CRUSHER, AS OUR COLOR COMMENTATOR, WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THIS BIG BARDA NEWCOMER?"

"AW, SHE DON'T LOOK LIKE NUTHIN' TA ME, NED."

OOOPH!

WUMP

"ARE YOU SURE, CRUSHER?

HEY, YOU'RE TAKING THIS FOR REEE...!

--T-TAKE IT E-EASY...

"LIKE I SAID, SHE LOOKS VERY IMPRESSIVE...

TWUNG

"IN FACT, MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL HER BAD BARDA...

SLABB

"YES! SHE JUST SCORED A KNOCKOUT!"

STRANGE SPORT--BUT STIMULATING.

THE WINNNNNAH!

"HMMPH."

"SOUR GRAPES, CRUSHER?"

"ZIP IT, NED--UNLESS YA WANT I SHOULD LOSE DAT MICROPHONE SOMEWHERES INSIDE YER ANATOMY."

LATER, BACK AT THE LOFT...

MY FIRST WIN AND SCOTT *MISSED* IT...

...AND HE'S *STILL* NOT HOME.

WHERE COULD HE--

BRIIINGG

SCOTT? WHERE *ARE* YOU?

UH, LISTEN, BARDA, DON'T GET *UPSET*, BUT... I'M, UH, AT JLA HQ.

WHAT? BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE *LAST* PLACE YOU WANTED TO--

IT *IS*, DEAR, BELIEVE ME, BUT THERE'S BEEN A MIXUP WITH *SHILO* AND...

LOOK, IT'S TOO *COMPLICATED* TO EXPLAIN* RIGHT NOW, BUT I THINK THE *EXPERIENCE* IS SOMETHING SHILO *NEEDS*.

EASY, SKIPPER--"*IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE THE DAWN.*"

THE CURRENT LEAGUE HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR SEVERAL *YEARS* NOW--

--AND I'M STILL *WAITING* FOR DAWN'S ROSY FINGERS.

OK, OK, SCOTT, I GUESS I UNDER-STAND.

THANKS, BARDA. I'LL *TALK* TO YOU-- 'BYE.

*SEE EVENTS IN JLA #47 FOR MORE INFO --KD

WAIT, SCOTT! I HAVE *NEWS*! I WON MY FIRST--

KLIK

I...I GUESS I'D BETTER... MAKE *DINNER* FOR US, HIGHFATHER.

NO SENSE WAITING FOR SCOTT *NOW*...

BARDA...

SCOTT WILL *SHARE* YOUR VICTORY IN *DUE TIME*...

YOU THINK?

YES.

AND IF IT'S JUST THE *TWO* OF US, WHY DON'T WE CALL OUT FOR... WAS IT "*PETE'S A*" OBERON CALLED IT?

ONE WEEK LATER...

SCOTT *STILL* ISN'T BACK. WHERE ON EARTH *IS* HE?

NICE NEW THREADS, BARDIE.

JUST A *STREAMLINING* FOR HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT. AND IT'S *BARDA.*

RIGHT, BIG BAD BARDA. LISTEN, DIS TIME WE GOTTA HAVE *BETTY BODYSLAM* PULL A *WIN.*

WHAAAT?

LOOK, BARDA, WE GAVE YOU A DEBUT *WIN,* WHADDAYA *WANT?*

BUT I'LL EXPLAIN THEM *HERE*-- AND THE FACTS *ARE:* WE *REHEARSE* OUR MOVES SO YOU DON'T GET HURT WHEN YOU *LOSE.*

I *NEVER* LOSE.

SUIT YOURSELF AND LOSE WITH *PAIN* IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT-- BUT LET ME WARN YOU...

DIS TIME YA GOTTA SUCK DA *BOTTOM* SIDE O' DA CANVAS, *SEE?* FOIST YA *WIN,* DEN YA--

YO, PETE-- *PHONE*-- IT'S THE *BIG BOYS.*

AW, WHADDA *DEY* WANT *NOW?* MORE TROUBLE, I BET-- DOSE GUYS ARE *ALWAYS* TROUBLE.

BETTY, *YOU* TELL HER-- EXPLAIN DA FACTS O' LIFE IN DA *RING.*

I SHOULD *TEACH* THEM IN THE RING *LATER...*

...I'M NOT ONE OF THESE *ACTING* PANTYWAISTS. I *KNOW* HOW TO DISH IT OUT.

OUTTA MY *WAY,* SMALLFRY.

HEY--!

DON'T MIND *HER,* BARDA-- SOMETIMES BETTY JUST GETS MEAN.

YEAH...

...BUT YOU REALLY *SHOULD* REHEARSE YOUR--

YO, BARDA-- I GOT *IMPORTANT* NEWS!

OBERON?

HEY, MAXINE--KATY--ANGEL.
HI, OBIE.
AH, MY *FAVORITE* BAD AN' BEAUTIFUL BABES O' WRESTLIN'...

...IN THE PULSATIN'LY PULCHRITUDINOUS *FLESH*, NO LESS.
HEY, ROWEENA.
PRINCESS PULVERIZE
SMACK

LISTEN, I AM *NOT* AN ELECTRONIC MEDIA FANTASY OBJECT! I'M A *LADY*--
-- AND YOU'RE *DOGMEAT* IF YOU EVER *FORGET* IT!

ANOTHER CONQUEST.
OBERON! YOU MENTIONED "*IMPORTANT NEWS*"--?
OH YEAH-- ABOUT *SCOTTY*--
--HE WON'T BE *BACK* FOR A WHILE.

HE AND WETNOSED *SHILO* WENT OFF WITH THE *JLA* ON SOME CAPER INVOLVIN' THIS GERIATRIC *GENERAL GLORY* GUY.*
WHAT?!
* See JLA #46-50-KD

HE SAID HE WANTED TO GIVE ALL THAT *UP!*
IT'S THAT *WRETCHED MAX LORD!*
I'LL *KILL* HIM!

AND IN THE *BLUE* CORNER, WITH A RECORD OF ONE WIN AND NO LOSSES-- *BIG BARDA!*
DING

KILL...KILL...
O.K. TIME FOR YOUR LESSON: LOSING WITH--

KILL.
KAPOW!
--PAIN?

THAT DOES IT...

... KID GLOVES ARE OFF!

NOT QUITE.

YOU'RE STILL STANDING.

HEY! PUT ME DOWN!

OH, I WILL-- EVENTUALLY.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LOSE!

ONLY IN YOUR DREAMS, BULLY BETTY.

BBBW

HOY-MOLLOY, LOOKIT WHAT BARDA'S DOIN'!

OBERON, THIS IS UNPLEASANTLY REMINISCENT OF THE SENSELESS VIOLENCE PERPETRATED ON DARK APOKOLIPS:

HECK, NO, HIGHFATHER--

--THIS IS THERAPEUTICALLY CATHARTIC RELEASE DRESSED UP AS GROTESQUE GOOD CLEAN FUN. BESIDES--

-- BARDA'S YOUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, AIN'T SHE?

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A POINT, FRIEND OBERON...

GO, BAR-DA! CLEANLY FUN HER TO SUBMISSION!

UH.. SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT, HIGH-FATHER.

WHOM

I...I SURRENDUHHHH..

SHE *WON*--? SHE'S *FIRED!*

UH, I DUNNO IF YOU OUGHTTA *DO* THAT, PETE.

WHY *NOT?*

LOOK AT THE *CROWD REACTION*...

BAR-DA!

BAR-DA!

BAR-DA!!

WE HAVE JUST WITNESSED THE *FUTURE OF TRIPLE B-W WRESTLING*, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND ITS NAME IS *BIG BAD BARDA!*

UH... *YEAH.*

MAYBE SHE *AIN'T* JUST A FLASH IN DA PAN.

POINT TAKEN, GEORGIE--DIS DAME *COULD* BECOME A *HUGE DRAW*... BUT DA *BIG BOYS* AIN'T GONNA *LIKE* IT.

DEY HAD *BIG PLANS* FOR BETTY BODYSLAM.

YEAH, BUT THIS *BARDA'S* A *SENSAYSH!*

AWRIGHT, SO MAYBE SHE AIN'T FIRED, GEORGIE... BUT HAVE BIG LOU "*SPEAK*" TO DIS BARDA BEFORE HER *NEXT* MATCH.

UH... YEAH... IF YOU *SAY* SO, PETE.

I DON'T LIKE IT *NEITHER*, GEORGIE, BUT IT'S GOTTA BE *DONE.*

NICE GOIN', BARDA--GOTTA ADMIT, IT WAS A *KICK* SEEING BETTY GET *HERS* FOR A CHANGE.

THANK YOU, BEA.

THIS TIME I'M *REALLY* GOING TO KILL HIM--TIE HIM IN A *MAX LORD PRETZEL* AND TAKE A *BIG* BITE.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW BETTY WAS GOING TO *LOSE* TONIGHT.

WHO CARES?! YEA, BARDA!

--BUT YA REALLY SHOULDN'T GO AROUND WINNIN' LIKE IT'S A *REAL CONTEST*, BARDA.

WHYEVER *NOT*, FRIEND OBERON?

BECAUSE, BIG DADDY HIGHFATHER, IT'S ALL JUST A *GAME*...

THE RESULTS OF THESE THINGS ARE *FIXED IN ADVANCED*--EVEN *CHOREOGRAPHED*.

FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT'S YOUR *NEXT MATCH*, BARDA?

MAMA MOUND--FRIDAY. I *STILL* CAN'T BELIEVE SCOTT WENT OFF WITH THE JUS--

MAMA WHO?

MAMA MOUND, H.F..

SEE, *THAT* ONE YA *GOTTA* LOSE...

THE *WINNER* GOES AGAINST THE *CHAMP*. IT'S *GOTTA* BE MY THIRD FAVORITE, *MAMA MOUND*, AGAINST MY FIRST FAVORITE, THE *AMAZON ANGEL*. WHO BARDA *CLOBBERED* IN HER B!BBOW AUDITION.*

MIGHT I INQUIRE AS TO WHO YOUR *SECOND* FAVORITE IS, OBERON?

MINI-MAXINE, THE *DAINTY DESTROYER*.

ALBANIAN NOODLE F--RY

*LAST ISSUE-K

ACTUALLY, MAXIE'D BE MY *FIRST* FAVORITE IF SHE *WON* MORE OFTEN, BUT--

SHE DOESN'T *WIN*, OBERON, BECAUSE SHE LACKS THE *WARRIOR SPIRIT*.

THERE YA *GO* AGAIN--TAKIN'IT ALL SO *SERIOUSLY*.

I DON'T WANT TO *HEAR* ABOUT IT, OBERON--NOT ONE MORE WORD FOR THE WHOLE *WEEK*!

I'VE GOT *OTHER* THINGS ON MY MIND--LIKE *STRANGLING SCOTT*--AFTER I STRANGLE *MAXWELL LORD*!

I DON'T THINK SHE HEARD A WORD.

FRIDAY NIGHT:

MAMA MOUND vs BIG BARDA

SCOTT STILL HASN'T CALLED.

TYPICAL *MALE*. WHEN HE'S WITH HIS *BUDDIES*--

PUTTIN' ON SOME *POUNDS*, MAXINE. HOW'RE THE GEEKS S'POSED TO *DROOL* OVER YOU IF YOUR HIPS ARE WIDER THAN *MAMA MOUND'S*?

I'M *SORRY*, BIG LOU, BUT I JUST--

BERTHA BLITZKRIEG

SMAK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BARDA, RIGHT? I'M *BIG LOU*.

PETE WANTED ME TO *SPEAK* TO YOU...

AND I WANT AN *ANSWER*! HOW *DARE* YOU STRIKE *MAXINE*?!

YOU MAKIN' A *BIG MISTAKE*, SISTER...

PLEASE, BARDA--PUT HIM *DOWN*.

ALL RIGHT. FOR *YOU*, MAXINE.

DAT'S *BETTER*. NOW EITHER TAKE A FALL IN DAT RING--

--OR GET HURT A LOT WO I SE *OUTSIDE* DA RING.

HE *MEANS* IT, BARDA.

A *THREAT*?

NOPE.

JUST PART OF DA *PLAN*-- HISTORY ALREADY *WROTE*.

I'M NOT *PART* OF YOUR PLAN!

I'M A *WARRIOR*-- AND A WARRIOR HONORS *PRIDE* BEFORE *ANY* FALL!

AND A WARRIOR DOES NOT *SULLY* HERSELF ON THE LIKES OF *YOU*!

ALL RIGHT, SISTER, IF *THAT'S* THE WAY YOU WANT IT...

BARDA! *LOOK OUT*!

OH, HOW TYPICAL-- A GUN.

YEAH -- WHAT 'RE YA GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

WAKT

THRUNCH

URK-K-K!

SPLAMM

WOW.

KLINK

A *TRUE* WARRIOR DOESN'T *NEED* A GUN.

WAY TO GO, BAD BABE!

THE *ONLY* WAY, SPIDER-LADY-- WITH *HIS* ILK.

MAXINE, WHY DID YOU LET BIG LOU *STRIKE* YOU?

WHY? BECAUSE I'M *NOT* A WARRIOR, BARDA, NOT *REALLY.*

I CAN'T PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST MEN LIKE *HIM*...

... AND BESIDES, I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MY *JOB.*

THERE ISN'T MUCH WORK, YOU KNOW, FOR A WOMAN WITH MY LACK OF SKILL AND EDUCATION ...AND, WELL, *MY SIZE.*

NONSENSE. TO *BECOME* A WARRIOR, YOU MUST FIRST CONQUER *YOURSELF.*

I KNOW SOMEONE YOUR SIZE WHO STANDS UP TO THE *GREATEST HEROES IN THE WORLD.*

HE HAS EVEN *SAVED THEIR LIVES.*

GOOD FOR HIM-- HE'S A *MAN.*

BUT MOST *WOMEN* DON'T GET THE *BREAKS.*

MAXINE--

MAMA MOUND--?

HEY, I LIKE YOUR *STYLE*, BIG BAD BARDA.

YEAH-- AND LET'S GO DO IT FOR *REAL*-- NONE OF THIS PHONEY-BALONEY CHOREOGRAPHED HIPPO-BALLET *THEATRIC* JIVE...

"...AND MAY THE TOUGHEST WOMAN *WIN!*"

:*NNNGHHH*:

"*HERE WE ARE AT RINGSIDE...*"

WAAM!!!

"OH, A BARDA BODYSLAM

"Y'KNOW, NED, DIS' ALMOST LOOKS REAL...

"...THAT LOCOMOTIVE TO THE STOMACH LOOKED LIKE IT HURT!"

"OF COURSE IT'S REAL CRUSHER."

"OH, UH, YEAH..."

"MAMA FLIPS BARDA UP AND OVER...!"

"... JUS' LIKE ALL OUR OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED AN' TELEVISED MEGAMAT BOUTS, RIGHT, NED?"

WUMP

"RIGHT, CRUSHER!"

"UH-OH, A MAMA MOUND PILEDRIVER...

"...BUT BARDA IS FAST!"

"SEE HOW REAL THAT IS, CRUSHER?"

I GUESS IT JUST GOT SO EXCITIN'-- I FORGOT!

UNDERSTANDABLE, CRUSHER!

Y'KNOW, IT DOES LOOK REAL.

THAT'S IT! AGAIN! AGAIN!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

IT ALMOST LOOKS AS IF MAMA MOUND'S GOT A CHANCE AGAINST BARDA!

YOU'RE ROOTING AGAINST BARDA? I THOUGHT YOU WERE FRIENDS?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS FRIENDS WHEN IT COMES TO WRESTLIN,' HIGHFATHER!

"OH NO! IT'S THE MAMA MOUND MASH!"

"THERE IS NO DEFENSE...

BONNNNG!

"WHOA! UNTIL NOW!"

AAAAAGHH!

FLOP!

ONE... TWO... THREE!

BAR-DA!

BAR-DA!

BAR-DA!

I-I LOST.

THERE IS NO SHAME, MAMA MOUND, IN DOING ONE'S BEST.

THANKS, SISTER.

THE WINNER IS-- BIG BAD BARDA!

THE WINNER *INDEED*, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO, UH, FACE THE *AMAZON ANGEL* IN NEXT WEEK'S *MONSTER MEGAMAT MARATHON EVENT*-- FOR THE *CHAMPION-SHIP*.

UH, GEE... DAT'S *RIGHT*, AIN'T IT...?

BUT IT WASN'T S'POSED TO *HAPPEN* LIKE--

BBBW

ZIP IT, CRUSHER.

WHAT HAPPENED--?!

I CAN'T B'LIEVE DIS!

WHERE'S BIG LOU?!!

OHHH... THAT D-DAME AIN'T FOR REAL, PETE...

OH YEAH SHE IS, YOU RAUNCHY WRETCH, AN' DAT'S DA PROBLEM! NOW I CALL DA BIG BOYS--AN' GIVE DEM TROUBLE FER A CHANGE...

WHAT 'RE YOU SAYIN'?

I'M SAYIN' DIS SHOW MAY BE OVER.

TIME WARNER INC

Wrestling Weekly

BIG BAD BARDA SHE'S HOT

BIG BAD BARDA

BUT IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK, MEDIA SATURATION, GREED, AND THE INEXPLICABLE DESIRE TO WEAR SOMEONE ELSE ON ONE'S CHEST CONSPIRE TO CREATE--

BIG BAD BARDA

--BARDAMANIA!!

ALSO IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK PETE PLEADS HIS CASE...

--AN' WHO KNOWS? MAYBE DIS LEGITIMATE TING'LL CATCH ON.

IT'S OUT OF YOUR HANDS NOW, PETE. YOUR SERVICES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED.

JOHNNY--ROCCO--ESCORT PETE TO THE PARKING LOT.

SURE THING, BOSS--I THINK THAT'S WHERE I DROPPED MY BRASS KNUCKLES ANYWAY.

AND SEND IN MISS A.

YOU WANTED TO *SEE* ME?

THE AMAZON ANGEL. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO *BEAT* THIS BARDA BIMBO? EVEN IF SHE *DOES* PLAY IT FOR REAL.

RETAIN MY *CHAMPIONSHIP?* YOU BET.

THEN JUST WEAR *THIS* DURING THE BOUT.

WH-WHAT? A *BELT?* WHAT DOES IT *DO?*

IT WILL... ENABLE YOU TO MEET THIS BARDA ON *HER OWN TERMS.*

BUT... WH-WHERE'D IT *COME FROM?*

NEVER MIND -- A LITTLE OLD LADY FROM *HOBOKEN* GAVE IT TO US.

NOW YOU JUST RUN ALONG AND PREPARE YOUR *VICTORY SPEECH,* ANGEL...

...WHILE I ARRANGE A LITTLE INSURANCE FOR BARDA'S *PERMANENT* DEFEAT.

BRINNNNGG

HELLO--?

BARDA? DIS IS PETE -- BEEN TRINE TO GETCHOO ALL DAY. WATCH YERSELF, BABE -- YOU COULD BE IN DANGER.

ALBANIAN NOODLE FACTORY

GOOD FOOD FOR YOUR NOODLE

GLUG

OH, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT *THAT,* PETE -- DANGER *NEVER* BOTHERS *ME.*

Y'DOAN *UNNERSTAN',* BABE. DESE BIG BOYS PLAY FOR KEEPS -- DEY MIGHT TRY SOMETHIN' *RADICAL.*

DON'T *WORRY,* PETE -- YOU JUST PROMOTE THE *MATCH.*

SORRY, BARDA, BUT NO CAN DO...

WENT TO TRACK WITH H.F. DON'T HOLD DINNER (UNLESS YOU WEAR GLOVES). --OBERON

I GOT *FIRED.*

THE BIG NIGHT:

WON'T SCOTTY BE SURPRISED WHEN HE FINDS HIS WIFE IS THE TRIPLE B-W WORLD CHAMPEEN!

IF SHE WINS, OBERON.

C'MON, BIG DADDY--BARDA'S ALREADY BEATEN THE AMAZON ANGEL...

"...THIS'LL BE LIKE SHOOTIN' A DUCK IN A BARREL."

THIS IS THE BIG MOMENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--THE CHAMPIONSHIP GRUDGE MATCH OF THE MILLENNIUM--THE AMAZON ANGEL VERSUS BIG BAD BARDA!

AND AS SOON AS BARDA DOFFS HER CAPE...

BBBW

"...THE BOUT WILL BEGI--

"WHAT'S THIS?! THE AMAZON ANGEL STRIKES FIRST--

"--CROSSING THE RING LIKE A SLINGSHOT HELLCAT!"

BY THE SOURCE--HER STRENGTH--EQUAL TO--

--PERHAPS EVEN SURPASSING MINE!

"THIS IS A SHOCK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!"

WACK

"YOU SAID IT, NED!

"BARDAMANIA IS SUFFERIN' A MORTAL BLOW!"

BWOK!

HOY-MOLLOY! WH-WHAT'S GOIN'ON?!

IT'S THAT *BELT*, OBERON!

GET *UP*, BARDA! YOU'RE A *WARRIOR!*

GO FOR HER *BELT!*

YES. HER BELT... *GLOWING*... NOT OF *THIS EARTH*...

HEY!!

HIGHFATHER'S RIGHT! I AM A WARRIOR.

FLATCH

I HAVE *TRAINED* MYSELF.

CHEEYEW

I WILL *NOT* BE *DEFEATED.*

PUT ME *DOWN!!*

ANOTHER *GUN!*

KRAK

GOT TO PROTECT *ANGEL!*

HEY! SOMEBODY'S *SHOOTIN'* AT 'EM!!

NOT, OBERON...

ZOOSH

...FOR LONG!

DON'T KNOW WHAT HIT ME, BUT GOTTA GET--

WE DON'T KNOW WHICH OF OUR FRIENDS YOU WERE AIMING AT--

:HIIIHH:

--BUT SINCE THEY'RE KINDA BUSY RIGHT NOW--

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO.

--TWO...THREE! WINNER AND NEW CHAMPION-- BIG BAD BARDA!

THREW HERSELF OVER ANGEL TO PROTECT HER --AND ENDS UP PINNING HER!

THIS IS NOT WHAT I PLANNED!

OR WHAT WE AGREED TO...

Y-YOU!

I WANTED TO HUMILIATE BARDA--NOT KILL HER.

B-BUT... BUT...

EVERYWHERE I GO, IT SEEMS, DISCIPLINE IS REQUIRED.

BOYS... TAKE HIM TO THE BOOM TUBE.

BUT GRANNY...I CAN EXPLAIN!

YOU CAN GET ON YOUR KNEES AND BEG FOR MERCY-- AND YOU CAN CRAWL.

BUT THAT'S ALL YOU CAN DO, YOU CRAVEN, TRAITOROUS FAILURE!

AND YOU, BARDA, CURSE YOU...

EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE JOINED THE OTHER SIDE... YOU ARE STILL MY FINEST FURY.

LATER:

I *TESTIFIED*, RIGHT HERE OUTTA MY *BED*, AGAINST *BIG BOY* AN' HIS *LACKEYS*.

DEY ROUNDED UP *MOST* OF 'EM, BUT BIG BOY HISSELF SEEMS TA HAVE VANISHED IN *T'IN AIR*.

BUT I'M 'FRAID DA ENSUIN' *SCANDAL* SPELLS DA *END* OF DA *TRIPLE B-W*-- YOUSE GOILS IS OUTTA *WOIK*.

BUT WHAT'LL WE DO *NOW*?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YEAH, THERE ARE OTHER FEMALE WRESTLIN' GROUPS...

ZEY PROBABLY VOULD *NOT* HIRE US.

HEY, IT *HADDA* END, GOILS. DA *OTHER* WRASSLIN' ORGANIZATIONS MAY BE JUST AS *STAGED*--

--ENTERTAINMENT, NOT REAL SPORT-- BUT AT LEAST DEY AIN'T RUN BY *KILLERS*.

JUST WHEN BARDA *TAUGHT* US TO BE TRUE TO *OURSELVES*-- NOW THERE'S NOWHERE TO *USE* IT.

MAMA, MAYBE THERE *IS*...

WH-WHAT DO YOU *MEAN*, BARDA?

HOW WOULD YOU WOMEN LIKE TO START TRAINING AS *REAL* WARRIORS--?

REAL WARRIORS--?

YES. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME...

...THE *NEW FEMALE FURIES*.

DA *WHAT*--?

WOMEN UNAFRAID OF *ANYTHING*.

THIS EARTH COULD *USE* THEM.

BACK IN WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK...

STILL NOT OUTTA THAT SAFE *YET*, SHILO?

SURREAL IS ONE THING, BUT THIS IS *RIDICULOUS*.

I'LL GIVE YOU *ONE MORE MONTH*--AND THEN I'M BACK ON THE *SWINGING SINGLES SCENE*.

NEXT ISSUE THE SINISTER SECRET OF-- **THE ALBANIAN NOODLE FACTORY**